

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 DPW-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /116 W

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R 201105Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5063

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2575

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MINS, PINS, STOP, CB

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CENSUS AND CONSCRIPTION EFFORT

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 2369

B. PHNOM PENH 2283 (NOTAL)

C. PHNOM PENH 2063

1. SUMMARY. OFFICIALS CONCEDE THAT THE PHNOM PENH CENSUS, NOW ON ITS SCHEDULED NEXT TO LAST DAY, MUST BE PROLONGED IN THE CITY'S TWO LARGEST WARDS. SLIGHTLY STEPPED UP EFFORTS TO HAUL IN DRAFT DODGERS MAY BE STIMULATING MORE VOLUNTEERS IN PHNOM PENH. TOP OFFICIALS ARE AT LAST FOCUSSED THEIR ATTENTION ON CONSCRIPTION IN THE PROVINCES WITH HIGH LEVEL VISITS TODAY (FEB 20) TO KOMPONG SOM, KOMPONG THOM AND SIEM REAP. END SUMMARY.

2. OVERWORKED CENSUS TAKERS (REF A) WILL APPARENTLY BE UNABLE TO COMPLETE WORK IN AT LEAST THE TWO MAJOR PHNOM PENH WARDS (KHANDS) BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 21 DEAD-LINE. CONSCRIPTION CHIEF OF STAFF BRIGGEN YONG YOC HANG TOLD US THAT THE LARGEST KHAND, DECHO, WILL
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REQUIRED MORE TIME AND THE CHIEF OF THE SECOND LARGEST

KHAND, SEREIRATH, SPOKE OF TWO OR THREE ADDITIONAL DAYS TO COMPLETE HIS CENSUS. CITY AND WARD OFFICIALS MET WITH MIXED CONSCRIPTION COMMITTEEMEN TODAY TO DISTRIBUTE COMPLETED COPIES OF THE CENSUS FORMMS AND BEGIN TABULATING THE RESULTS.

3. MINISTER OF DEFENSE MAJGEN THAPPANA NGINN ASSURED US TODAY THAT THE GKR'S DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON IMPLEMENTING CONSCRIPTION HAVE NOW REACHED ALL PROVINCE CHIEFS. YONG YOC HANG AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS WENT TO KOMPONG SOM TODAY TO ATTEMPT TO BRING SOME ORDER TO THAT PROVINCE'S HAPHAZARD CINSRIPTION EFFORTS AND ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR PERSONNEL BRIGGEN NIM AN DORE TRAVELED TO KOMPONG THOM AND SIEM REAP TO SURVEY RECRUITMENT POSSIBILITIES AMONG THE RECENTLY ARRIVED REFUGEES THERE.

4. THE SLOW PACED DESERTER/DRAFT DODGER ROUND-UP HAS NOW NETTED 39 DESERTERS AND 18 DRAFT DODGERS. THESE FIRST RESULTS IN THE DRAFT DODGER CATEGORY, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE HELPED PRODUCE A NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN CXLUNTEERS IN THE CITY. ONE KHAND CHIEF ATTRIBUTED AN UPSURGE IN VOLUNTEERS IN HIS AREA TO THIS AND ANOTHER STATED THAT HE HAS PERMITTED DRAFT DODGERS BROUGHT BEFORE HIM TO CONVERT TO VOLUNTEERS. ALTHOUGH ONE DAY'S RESULT DOES NOT ESTABLISH A TREND, WE WERE HEARTENED TO SEE THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS JUMP ON FEBRUARY 19 TO 122 FROM A PREVIOUS DAILY AVERAGE OF AROUND 35.
ENDERS

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